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PATENT
Attorney Docket No. 501295

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Dawn Marie Schwarzkopf

Group Art Unit: 3712

Application No: 09/920,676

Examiner: Dmitry Suhol

Filed: August 2, 2001

For: Teaching Apparatus And Method Of
Enabling Use Of Keyboard By Young
Children

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MAY 24 2002

TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

SUPPORTING DECLARATION UNDER 37 CFR 1.131

1. I am employed as the principal of Taylor Park Elementary School in Freeport, Illinois. The inventor of the above-identified application, Ms. Dawn Marie Schwarzkopf is a first grade teacher at my school.

2. I have been advised that Ms. Schwarzkopf's patent application for a TEACHING APPARATUS AND METHOD OF ENABLING USE OF KEYBOARD BY YOUNG CHILDREN has been rejected based on an advertisement on page 26 of the Educational Resources Fall 2000 catalog for a Reading Readiness Keyboard Cover. I have also been advised that this catalog was mailed on August 19, 2000. I make this declaration to support Ms. Schwarzkopf's declaration under 37 CFR 1.131 swearing behind this reference.

3. Prior to August 19, 2000, Ms. Dawn Marie Schwarzkopf explained to me her frustration with the currently available computer equipment with respect to her early learners. Specifically Ms. Schwarzkopf related to me that a problem exists, particularly at the start of a new year, as her young students are introduced to the computer. Ms. Schwarzkopf explained that the problem relates to the fact that these young students do not yet have a complete mastery of the relationship between the upper and lower case letters of the alphabet. Since, at the beginning of the school year, students are only taught the lower case letters in the classroom, asking them to enter data on a computer keyboard that does not include such lower case letters is a significant handicap to the children. Ms. Schwarzkopf further explained to me that she thought that this problem could be eliminated through the provision of a keyboard cover that could be placed over the keyboard of the computer. Ms. Schwarzkopf explained to me that such a keyboard cover as she envisioned would allow the students to see both the upper and the associated lower case letter on each key so that they could find the appropriate key when asked to enter information. Ms. Schwarzkopf also

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explained that such a keyboard cover would aid in the child's association of the lower case letter with the upper case letter to further reinforce what they were being taught in the classroom.

4. Prior to August 19, 2000, Ms. Schwarzkopf asked me to look for a keyboard cover as she had described to me. Based on Ms. Schwarzkopf's description and request I searched for such a product at several conferences which I attended, all prior to August 19, 2000. These conferences include The Illinois Principal's Association Conference, The Conference On Raising IGAP Scores In Reading and Writing, The Title I SchoolWide Conference, The Conference On Increasing Reading Achievement Using Guided Reading, The Association For Supervision And Curriculum Development Conference, The Principal's Role In Raising Reading Achievement Conference, The Reading Renaissance Workshop, and The Conference For Improving Student Performance.

5. After the start of the 2000-2001 school year, which was after August 19, 2000, but prior to March 29, 2001, Ms. Schwarzkopf again asked if I was aware or could find a keyboard cover as she had described. I attended the Effective Schools Conference in February, 2001, but was unable to find such a keyboard cover. Upon my return, I informed Ms. Schwarzkopf of this.

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6. I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.


Char Kreuder, Principal
Taylor Park Elementary School

Dated: 4-12-02